

Rockville Environment Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, May 11, 2010

At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners: Seth Adams, Julie Carr, David Davis, Kris Dighe Beri Kravitz, Christine Davidson-McCord, and Donna Vincent Roa

Absent: Steve Cardon, Tolu Odunlami

Guest: Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:32 pm by Chair Dighe

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 13, 2010 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by acclimation without change.

Graffiti Ordinance

Kris Dighe led a brief discussion of the background of the effort between the Commission and the Parks Board to develop anti-graffiti white paper (February 2009) that concludes that the City Code should be amended to add anti-graffiti prohibitions and penalties. He intends to circulate the most recent work product around to Commission members to take a fresh look.

White Tailed Deer Task Force Report

Christine Davidson-McCord briefed the Commissioners on the status of this City initiative. The Task Force plans to meet on the first Tuesday of each month for the next 8-9 months. The task force is examining the deer management practices of Howard and Montgomery Counties, the State DNR (on State lands), and some New England States. The group has also started discussing the pros and cons of potential solutions including doing nothing, implementing a birth control initiative, and a managed harvest.

Encouraging Commercial Recycling

Donna Roa led a discussion of potential approaches to increase commercial recycling rates. Mark Charles described the applicable City Code that requires all commercial establishments to recycle at least 50% of their solid wastestream. Ms. Roa described a potential pilot effort that could be pursued with businesses and an area school (e.g., collect materials from the business and donate them for use at the school – for art projects etc.). She suggested biotech firms could be the best place to start such a program.

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Ms. Roa also described an *eco-village* in North Carolina made entirely out of used wooden pallets. She also described a program where once per year, the contents of school lockers are cleaned out and remaining school supplies are collected, consolidated and shipped to schools overseas. Finally, the group considered organizing students to perform their mandatory community service projects by cleaning up or consolidating the left over school supplies.

Ms. Roa and Mark Charles plan to visit with the County Recycling Program Manager to discuss these potential initiatives. It was also suggested that if any are pursued, that the Committee use the *Rockville Living* blog to promote them. In addition, *Community Forklift* and *Craig's List* were identified as other places that might be useful in organizing or promoting these efforts.

Final Preparations for Hometown Holidays

Hometown Holidays is scheduled for May 29-30. The Commission will have a booth on Sunday, May 30, 2010 only from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Recycling will be the primary focus of the booth. The City has agreed to provide a 32-gallon refuse cart and a 96-gallon recycling cart for the event. Fifteen other green organizations and businesses, including the **U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Groundwater Protection**, have signed up to participate in the event. Three of these organizations will make presentations from a stage. Staffing is as follows: 12:30-2:30 (Carr and Davis); 2:00-4:00 (Roa and Davidson); and 3:30-6:00 (Dighe, Kravitz, and Odunlami). The Outreach Committee is looking into getting hats or t-shirts with the Rockville sustainability logo on them for the event.

Committee Reports

Watershed Protection Committee

- In lieu of a regular meeting, Committee members attended a Rainbarrel Workshop on April 21.
 - Julie Carr has photos of stream clean up activities if anyone wants to use them.

Sustainable Development and Energy Committee

- The Committee met and discussed implementation issues associated with the green building ordinance (Chapter 5 of the City Code).
 - The group also discussed the need to coordinate outreach efforts with the Community Outreach and Education Committee.

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Community Outreach and Education Committee

- The Committee met and debriefed on the Earth Day and Science Day events.
 - The Watershed Model was a big hit with kids.
 - Traffic at Science Day was steady all day long
 - 6 signed up to be volunteers
 - The Committee has video of City staff doing stream clean up activities and invasive species removal.

Environmental Management Report

Mark Charles reported on the following actions and upcoming events:

- **Multi-City Environmental Commissions Meeting** – The City of Bowie has contacted Rockville about the environment commissions of Rockville, Bowie, Annapolis, Greenbelt and Gaithersburg getting together again in the fall. Bowie wanted to confirm Rockville's previous offer to host a future meeting and to identify a date for this meeting. Commissioners indicated their willingness to host and expressed a preference for October 13, 2010. Mark Charles will reserve the Mayor and Council chambers for that date and get back to Bowie.
- **Commissioner Recruitment**
There are now two vacancies on the Commission. One is for a regular commissioner and another is for a student (high school, college, graduate) student. Ads will be placed in *Rockville Reports*, the City website, on Facebook, and at the Shady Grove Shared University campus. Commissioners should be on the lookout for potential candidates and ask that interested persons complete the Level of Interest form on the website.
- **Water Resources Element** – The draft water resources element is currently pending before the Planning Commission and will ultimately be submitted to the Mayor and Council for adoption into the City's comprehensive land use master plan. Environment Commissioners were provided with a hard copy of the draft report and asked to comment by June 9, 2010. The report projects drinking water, wastewater and stormwater capacity over the next 30 years. Adoption is anticipated by the end of September 2010.
- **Stormwater Ordinance (City Code Chapter 19)** – Discussion and instruction with the Mayor and Council is scheduled for May 24, 2010 and adoption is targeted for June 7, 2010. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) reviewed and approved the draft on May 18, 2010.

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- **Green Building Ordinance (City Code Chapter 5)** – The revised ordinance was adopted (5-0) on May 10, 2010. The Commission has contacted the Chamber of Commerce regarding working cooperatively together on recommendations from potential incentives.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm by unanimous acclimation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 8, 2010** at **7:30 pm** at **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.**

Follow Up/Action Items

- Commissioners should staff the booth at *Hometown Holidays* on Sunday, May 30, 2010. City staff to provide a recycling and refuse cart and materials to display re what goes in which cart.
- Commissioners should actively recruit potential candidates, including a student representative, to serve on the Commission and its committees.
- Commissioners should review and comment on the *Draft Water Resources Element* by June 9, 2010.
- Commissioners should continue to try to make contact with the Rockville Chamber of Commerce re Green building incentives
- Kris Dighe should circulate a copy of the graffiti ordinance/policy to other Commissioners.
- Mark Charles will reserve the Mayor and Council Chambers for October 13, 2010 and respond to Bowie re multi-city meeting.
- Mark Charles and Donna Roa should coordinate a time to visit with the County's Recycling Manager.